IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly replace the claims with the following:

1. (Currently amended) A data processing arrangement comprising:

- an input circuit [INP] for forming data items into successive groups of data [GRP] and for generating a basic control data item [BCD] and an additional control data item [SCD] for each group of data [GRP] the additional control data item [SCD] indicating for each data item if this data item is valid or not valid;

- a data processing circuit [PRC], containing a plurality of terminals [1, 2, 3, 4], for processing the data applied to the terminals in order to obtain an output data item; and

- an interconnection network [ICN] for applying selected ones of the data items in the successive groups of data [GRP] from said input circuit to corresponding ones of [[a]] said plurality of terminals [1, 2, 3, 4] of said processing circuit in dependence on the basic control data item [BCD] if the data item is valid and, if the data item is not valid, to apply a valid data item selected from the group of data instead.

2. (Previously presented) A method of processing data, comprising the steps of:

forming data items into successive groups of data [GRP] and generating a basic control data item [BCD] and an additional control data item [SCD] for each group of data [GRP], said additional control data item [SCD] indicating for each data item if this data item is valid or not valid;

applying the data items in successive groups of data [GRP] are applied to terminals [1, 2, 3, 4] of a processor [PRC] in dependence on the basic control data item [BCD] if the data item is valid and, if the data item is not valid, to apply a valid data item selected from the group of data instead; wherein the data items applied are processed in order to obtain an output data item.

3. (Currently amended) A computer program product, stored on a computer readable medium for a data processing arrangement, the "computer program" product comprising a set of instructions which, when loaded into a ~~the~~ data processing arrangement, causes this arrangement to carry out the following steps:

a forming step in which data items are formed into successive groups of data [GRP] and a basic control data item [BCD] and an additional control data item [SCD] are generated for each group of data [GRP], said additional control data item [SCD] indicating for each data item if this data item is valid or not valid;

an application step in which data items of ~~the~~ successive groups of data [GRP] are applied to terminals [1, 2, 3, 4] of a processor in dependence on the basic control data item [BCD] if the data item is valid and, if the data item is not valid, to apply a valid data item selected from the group of data instead; and

a processing step performed in said processor [PRC] in which the data items applied are processed in order to obtain an output data item.

4. (Previously presented) The arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein said basic control data item [BCD] indicates for each data item one of a plurality of said terminals [1, 2, 3, 4] to which the data item is applied.

5. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein said basic control data item [BCD] indicates for each data item one of a plurality of said terminals [1, 2, 3, 4] to which the data item is applied.

6. (Previously presented) The product as recited in claim 3, wherein said basic control data item [BCD] indicates for each data item one of a plurality of said terminals [1, 2, 3, 4] to which the data item is applied.